

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY GENERAL BROWN AND UNDER SECRETARY  
HABIB TO BE MADE JUNE 10 TO HIRC.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY GENERAL BROWN AND UNDER  
SECRETARY HABIB TO BE MADE JUNE 10 BEFORE HIRC. YOU MAY  
PROVIDE TEXT TO MOFA FOR GOVERNMENT'S INFO ONLY. YOU  
SHOULD STRESS THAT TEXT OR PORTIONS THEREOF SHOULD NOT RPT  
NOT BE RELEASED TO PRESS.

BEGIN QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:  
GENERAL BROWN AND I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR WITH-  
DRAWING U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA.

AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW  
U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA OVER A 4-5  
YEAR PERIOD IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT ENDANGER THE  
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SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THIS DECISION REFLECTS  
OUR DETERMINATION AFTER CAREFUL STUDY THAT, BECAUSE OF  
A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, WE SHOULD NOW MOVE TO A CAREFUL,  
PHASED REMOVAL OF OUR GROUND FORCES IN A MANNER WHICH  
ASSURES CONTINUED PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHEAST  
ASIA.

" THE WORLD TODAY IS A FAR DIFFERENT ONE FROM THE 1950S, PARTICULARLY IN EAST ASIA. THE PATTERN OF GREAT POWER INTERESTS IN THE AREA HAS DRAMATICALLY CHANGED. THE BROADER PATTERN OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS IS SUCH THAT WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER THE PRC OR THE SOVIET UNION TO ENCOURAGE OR SUPPORT ACTIONS WHICH WOULD RAISE THE RISK OF WAR ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. FURTHER THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TODAY IS STRONGER, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY AND IS BOTH ABLE AND WILLING TO BEAR INCREASINGLY THE BURDENS OF ITS OWN DEFENSE. GIVEN THESE CONSIDERATIONS WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO MOVE IN A MEASURED FASHION TO BEGIN THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR GROUND COMBAT FORCES OVER THE NEXT 4-5 YEARS.

THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL IS A NATURAL, PROPER DEVELOPMENT IN OUR ONGOING SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. BOTH WE AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESENCE OF U.S. GROUND FORCES IN KOREA WAS RELATED DIRECTLY TO OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY BALANCE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA CAPABILITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. THERE HAD BEEN NO INTENTION TO KEEP OUR GROUND FORCES INDEFINITELY IN KOREA. AS YOU KNOW THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS HAVE HAD THE QUESTION OF GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL UNDER CONTINUING STUDY OVER THE PAST YEARS.

AT THIS POINT, JUST AS WE MOVED TO WITHDRAW A DIVISION IN 1971 WHEN THE KOREANS WERE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A GREATER BURDEN OF THEIR DEFENSE, SO WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE PERIOD WE PROJECTED WE SHOULD MOVE TO THE FURTHER WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES.

IN ARRIVING AT OUR DETERMINATION THAT THE GROUND FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN, WE HAVE CAREFULLY WEIGHED THE MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. GENERAL BROWN CAN ADDRESS IN MORE DETAIL YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THIS DECISION. HOWEVER, I WOULD NOTE THAT THE BASIC ELEMENTS THAT HAVE GONE INTO OUR DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO THE GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWAL WERE:

(A) OUR RECOGNITION OF KOREA'S IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE PAST DECADE AND THE CONSEQUENT GROWING CAPABILITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO DEFEND ITSELF.

(B) OUR FIRM INTENTION TO MAINTAIN OUR BASIC SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONTAINED

IN THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, AS WELL AS TO KEEP A SIGNIFICANT U.S. FORCE PRESENCE IN KOREA, CONSISTING MAINLY OF AIR AND KEY SUPPORT UNITS, AFTER THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED. ADDITIONALLY, OUR NAVAL UNITS WILL REMAIN IN THE AREA. WE BELIEVE THESE FORCES, COUPLED WITH THE MAJOR U.S. FORCES REMAINING IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC, PROVIDE A CLEAR, VISIBLE U.S. DETERRENT TO ANY POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN MISCALCULATION.

(C) OUR READINESS, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND APPROVAL, TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO ASSURE THAT THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT WEAKEN REPUBLIC OF KOREA DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. AND

(D) OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE BROADER INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT IN WHICH WE OPERATE, PARTICULARLY THE PATTERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS IN THE AREA.

WITH REGARD TO THE 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, IT IS OUR VIEW IT COULD BE RELOCATED TO THE U.S. AND MATCHED AGAINST OTHER UNFULFILLED REQUIREMENTS WHICH WILL PROVIDE GREATER AND MUCH NEEDED FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING U.S. WORLD-WIDE CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWAL DECISION, THE PRESIDENT WISHED TO CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL IN ORDER TO SECURE THEIR VIEWS. THE PRESIDENT ACCORDINGLY DISPATCHED GENERAL BROWN AND ME TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PARK AND PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, AS WELL AS SENIOR MEMBERS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. OUR DISCUSSIONS IN SEOUL AND TOKYO WERE COMPREHENSIVE, FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

IN OUR CONSULTATIONS IN SEOUL PRESIDENT PARK AND OTHER SENIOR KOREAN OFFICIALS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT OUR GROUND FORCE PRESENCE REMAIN. AT THE SAME TIME THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THE ESSENTIALS OF OUR PROJECTED FORCE WITHDRAWAL AND HAVE INDICATED THEIR OWN CONFIDENCE IN MEETING THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT ADEQUATE MEASURES ARE TAKEN IN PARALLEL TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MILITARY FIGHTING POWER BEING WITHDRAWN. FURTHER, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT MADE CLEAR ITS VIEW THAT ANY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT TO OFFSET THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FINAL

PHASE OF GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED.

IN TOKYO, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONVEYED ITS  
CONCERN THAT THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL BE CARRIED OUT  
IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT ENDANGER THE  
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SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA NOR THREATEN THE  
SECURITY OF NORTHEAST ASIA. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT  
BELIEVES THAT THE KEY ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING THESE  
OBJECTIVES IS THE CLEAR REITERATION OF THE U.S. SECURITY  
COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SO THAT THERE CAN BE  
NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR PURPOSE AND DETERMINATION. IT  
ALSO BELIEVES THAT ADEQUATE MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO  
PROVIDE SUFFICIENT EQUIPMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
TO MEET ANY SHORTFALLS CAUSED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR  
GROUND FORCES.

IN OUR DISCUSSIONS IN SEOUL AND TOKYO, GENERAL  
BROWN AND I WERE CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT WE WERE  
BEGINNING A PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS AND THAT WE WERE  
AUTHORIZED NEITHER TO ENTER INTO DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS  
NOR ENTER INTO ANY COMMITMENTS. WE WERE ALSO CAREFUL  
TO STRESS THE ROLE OF CONGRESS AND OUR INTENTION TO CON-  
SULT FULLY WITH CONGRESS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO ANY DETAILED  
DISCUSSIONS OR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE GROUND FORCE WITH-  
DRAWAL. THIS WAS FULLY UNDERSTOOD. THERE WAS A CLEAR  
APPRECIATION ON THE PART OF BOTH THE KOREAN AND JAPANESE  
GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE IN PROVIDING  
THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR INITIAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE  
GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WERE  
ASKED TO CONVEY THE SPECIFIC CONCERNS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS,  
PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE CONCRETE  
MEASURES TO ASSURE THAT THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KOREA IS NOT ENDANGERED.

IN SUM, I WOULD STATE THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS WERE  
SUCCESSFUL IN EXPLAINING TO THE KOREAN AND JAPANESE  
GOVERNMENTS THE PRESIDENT'S BASIC DECISION AND IN  
AFFORDING THEM A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR  
VIEWS, WHICH WE ARE NOW WEIGHING CAREFULLY. AS A RESULT  
OF THESE CONSULTATIONS WE BELIEVE THERE IS UNDERSTANDING  
AND ACCEPTANCE OF A CAREFULLY PLANNED, STAGED WITHDRAWAL  
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PROGRAM COUPLED WITH PROVISION OF NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO

OFFSET THE FIGHTING POWER OF THE GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWN.  
BOTH GOVERNMENTS ALSO UNDERSTAND BETTER OUR DETERMINATION  
TO MAINTAIN OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY COMMITMENT AND TO  
MANAGE THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL IN A MANNER WHICH  
NEITHER ENDANGERS THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KOREA NOR THE BASIC MILITARY BALANCE IN NORTHEAST ASIA.

FOR OUR PART WE WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR  
BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS BOTH OUR RECENT  
CONSULTATIONS IN KOREA AND JAPAN AND THE VARIOUS  
POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF OUR GROUND FORCES  
WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO THESE APPEARANCES,  
WE WILL BE IN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE  
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP TO  
BE SURE THAT YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF OUR THINKING AND  
PLANNING AS WE PROCEED. AS THIS EVOLVES OVER THE  
NEXT MONTHS, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL BE FULLY  
MINDFUL OF THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.

END QUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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